

## **National Disability Employment Awareness Month 2009**

In 1945, Congress enacted a law declaring the first week in October each year as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1962, the word "physically" was removed to acknowledge the employment needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a month each October and changed the name to "National Disability Employment Awareness Month." In honor of this observance, the Equal Opportunity and Diversity Management Division has compiled a list of local events planned throughout October, as well as websites with additional information on persons with disabilities.

### **Program Observances**

#### **Department of Labor National Disability Awareness Month Program Observance**

Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Department of Labor, Washington, DC Headquarters South Building, Jefferson Auditorium (All visitors must enter the building at the Visitors' Entrance on 3rd Street NW at 3rd and C Streets NW) Keynote

Speaker: Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary of the Office of Disability Employment Policy, Department of Labor

#### **NASA Headquarters National Disability Employment Awareness Month Program Observance**

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 noon

Location: NASA Headquarters Glennan Assembly Conference Auditorium

The program will feature keynote presentation by Mr. Ollie Cantos, a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities. Mr. Cantos will share his passion, vision and goal to increase the employment of individuals with disabilities, provide technical assistance, and assist with the development of best practices, community outreach, education, and training related to their needs. This program is sponsored by SWIC SEP.

#### **FSIS National Disability Employment Awareness Month Program Observance**

Thursday, Oct 8, 2009, 10:00 a.m.

Location: Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)  
1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Jefferson Auditorium, South Building, Washington, DC

The program will feature Guest Speaker Ms. Dinah Cohen, Director, Computer/Electronic Accommodations Programs (CAP) and dance performance by The Wild Zappers. For additional information, contact David Dissinger at 301-504-7755

### **Live Interviews on Disability Employment Issues**

Wednesday, October 14, 2009, 12 noon, WUSA News Channel 9, Anchorwoman J.C. Hayward, the special interest reporter for the local CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C., will interview Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary, Disability Employment Policy, U.S. Department of Labor on disability employment issues and U.S. Secretary of Labor Solis' vision of [Good Jobs for Everyone](#).

Tuesday, October 20, 2009, Joyce Bender will interview Kathleen Martinez, Assistant Secretary, Disability Employment Policy, U. S. Department of Labor on her national program, [Disability Matters](#). The interview will focus on disability employment policy and will be "Web-casted" live and archived for future listeners.

### **Websites**

[Presidential Proclamation-National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)

[The Museum of disABILITY History](#)

[The Smithsonian - The Disability Rights Movement](#)

[The Americans With Disabilities Act \(ADA\) Amendments Act of 2008](#)